U.S. Appln. No. 09/524,358
Reply to Office Action dated February 24, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

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Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I.   STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS.

Claims 1-6 and 8-18 are pending. Claims 1, 8 and 13, which are independent, are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the Specification as originally filed and specifically on page 8. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II.   REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 6 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruce Schneier's Applied Cryptography (hereinafter referred to as "Schneier") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,378,071 to Sasaki, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Sasaki") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,237,460 to Miller, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Miller").

Claims 2, 3, 14, 15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneier in view of Sasaki and Miller and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,241,599 to Bellovin, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Bellovin").

Claims 4 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneier in view of Sasaki, Miller and Bellovin, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,385,727 to Cassagnol, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Casagnol").

Claims 5 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneier in view of Sasaki, Miller, Bellovin and Cassagnol and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,202,152 to Yuenyongsgool, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Yuenyongsgool").

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneier in view of Sasaki and Miller and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,594,793 to Bahout (hereinafter, merely "Bahout").

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneier in view of Sasaki, Miller and Bahout and further in view of Bellovin.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneier in view of Sasaki, Miller, Bahout and Bellovin and further in view of Cassagnol.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneier in view of Sasaki, Miller, Bahout, Bellovin and Cassagnol and further in view of Yuenyongsgool.

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia:*

"A data processing apparatus comprising:...

    encrypting means for encrypting compressed data blocks into respective units of an encryption block having a predetermined data length;

    processing means for defining a plurality of processing blocks, each processing block having a data block length of a

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**whole multiple of said predetermined length of said encryption
block and for expanding compressed data blocks into one
processing block,**

**control means for writing the encrypted data in said
storage means so that said compressed data blocks positioned
in the same encryption block are also positioned in the same
processing block, said control means reading the data from
said storage means in units of the processing block,**" (emphasis
added)

As understood by Applicants, Schneier relates to an algorithm which encrypts

data in 64-bit blocks. A 64-bit block of plaintext goes in one end of the algorithm and a 64-bit

block of ciphertext comes out the other end. The same algorithm and key are used for both

encryption and decryption.

As understood by Applicants, Sasaki relates to a file access system which

includes a file opening unit which opens a given file within an external storage device when a

file opening request is issued by an application program. A determining unit determines whether

a given file within the storage device has encrypted data when a reading request is issued by the

application program. When the given file is determined as having the encrypted data, a reading

unit receives a fixed length of the encrypted data from the given file and generates a block of

decrypted data of the same size as the fixed length by performing a decryption wherein a position

of the fixed length of the decrypted data is determined by a position indicated by the reading

request.

As understood by Applicants, Miller relates to a random-access type storage

device such as a hard disk or semiconductor memory which is formatted to provide multiple

partitions of varying block size. The data to be stored is in blocks of fixed size, and these blocks

are compressed if the compressed size fits in the block size of a small-block partition in the

storage device. If a data block is not compressible to the small block size, it is stored

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uncompressed in another of the partitions. The memory device also contains a table storing the locations of the blocks in the partitions, so upon recall the block is retrieved from location, decompressed (if it had been compressed), and sent to the CPU.

As understood by Applicants, Bahout relates to an integrated circuit which has an EEPROM type memory and a lock (L) protecting the zone of the memory. The memory contains a read-protected password (PW) and the circuit has means to release the lock (L) if the circuit receives a write command at the address of the password of the same encrypted password (PW).

Applicants submit that the combination of references does not disclose or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 8 and 13 are also believed to be patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference or references, it is respectfully requested that the

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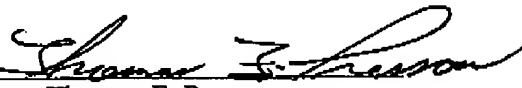
Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference or references, providing the basis

for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the

claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to

issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any

overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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